

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6918

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 5069

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT PINS IN NP

SUBJ: RUMORS OF EXPULSION OF NEPALIS FROM ASSAM

REF: DELHI 17716

1. WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS REPORTED REFTEL THAT SOME NEPALESE IN ASSAM ARE BEING FORCED TO OPT FOR INDIAN CITIZENSHIP IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEIR LAND HOLDINGS UNDER A NEW CITIZENSHIP REGISTRATION PROCEDURE UNDERTAKNE BY GOI. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES IN KATHMANDU GOI IS PUTTING CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON NEPALIS TO SELL LAND.

2. PRO-CHINESE WEEKLY MATRIBHUMI DECEMBER 5 PUBLISHED STORY THAT "INDIAN CITIZENS OF NEPALI ORIGIN IN MANOHARA IN ASSAM ARE BEING EXPELLED ON A VAREITY OF CHARGES." MATRIBHUMI STATES THAT SUCH PERSONS ARE BEING FORCED TO SELL THEIR LAND WHICH THEY HAVE SETTLED SINCE 1945 TO TRIBES OF THE GARO HILLS. GOI HAS SUPPOSEDLY ISSUED REGULATIONS REQUIRING THAT ALL LAND REVERT TO LOCAL TRIBES WHO, HAVING MONOPLY MARKET, ARE OFFERING ONLY 25 PERCENT OF REAL VALUE TO NEPALESE LANDOWNERS. STORY SAYS THAT "MOST OF THE NEPALIS" HAVE ALREADY SOLD OUT THEIR PROPERTY.

3.COMMENT: WE WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE DELHI AND CALCUTTA KEEPING US APPRISED OF SITUATION WHICH HAS POTENTIALLY SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS, AS WELL
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AS FOR DOMESTIC ECNOMIC SITUATION IN NEPAL SHOULD LARGE

NUMBERS OF NEPALIS RESIDING IN INDIA DECIDE TO RETURN TO THEIR
HOMELAND. ABILITY OF NEPAL TO ABSORB EVEN SMALL PERCENTAGE
OF MISSIONS LIVING ABROAD IS SEVERELY LIMITED. IT MAY WELL
BE THAT SITUATION IN ASSAM IS GOVERNED BY LOCAL RULES AND
REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD NOT AFFECT LARGER NUMBERS OF NEPALIS
IN BENGAL, SIKKIM AND DARJEELING, BUT EVEN THE THREAT OF
SIMILAR ACTION IS ENOUGH TO SEND SHIVERS DOWN SPINES OF
OFFICIALS HERE.

MAYTAG

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